

**REMARKS**

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 4-6, and 8-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4, 9, and 11 are the independent claims.

Claims 2, 3, and 7 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 11 have been amended. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Initially, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 4, 6, 7, and 11-14 recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of their respective base claims and any intervening claims and, regarding claims 11-14, if amended to address a rejection under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, discussed below. In response to these indications, Applicants have rewritten claim 4 in independent form to include all of the features of its base claim and all intervening claims. Also, Applicant has cancelled claim 7 and amended claim 1 to include the features of claim 7 and intervening claims 2 and 3. Still further, Applicants have rewritten claim 11 in independent form to include all of the features of its base claim, there being no intervening claims, and to address the rejection under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 5 and 8 depend from claim 1, claim 6 depends from claim 4, and claims 12-14 depend from claim 11. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 4-6, 8 and 11-14 are now in allowable form.

The Office Action objected to claim 8 on formal grounds. By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 8 in view of the Examiner's comments.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 11 in view of the examiner's comments. Claims 12-14 depend from claim 11.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,963,665 (Kim et al.). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 9 has been amended to recite, inter alia, calculating brightness levels

corresponding to an input image signal based on a calculated cumulative distribution function by adjusting a probability density function according to first, second and third upper value limits and first, second and third lower value limits.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that Kim et al. does not teach or suggest at least the aforementioned feature of independent claim 9.

Kim et al. relates to an image enhancing method using mean-separate histogram equalization and a circuit therefore and describes an apparatus including a frame histogram calculator 102, and divider 106, and first and second cumulative distribution function (CDF) calculators 108 and 110, respectively. (Kim et al., FIG 2). However, absent from Kim et al. is any teaching of adjusting a probability density function according to first, second and third upper value limits and first, second and third lower value limits.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.

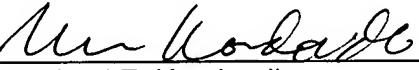
There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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